

THE DAY BOOK

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T. R. AND PREPAREDNESS.

Roosevelt's Chicago preparedness speech was probably put on as a feeler. Talking to the bar association was trying it out on a dog. His real audience was the country. But he hasn't yet got his new policy on straight. I'm for a bigger navy, and making the rich pay for it. The quickest and best way to make 'em pay for it is to enforce the income tax.

But I'm not for the big regular army stuff. That's propaganda stuff for Big Biz, which doesn't want a big army so much for defense against invasion as to keep American labor in subjection, and then subjugate and exploit Mexican labor.

T. R. hit on one good scheme of preparedness, when he boosted an American modification of the Swiss and Australian plans. But he didn't go deep enough there. Any thing along the lines of the Swiss and Australian plans means physical preparedness by training a citizen soldiery, which is all right if made thoroughly democratic.

But physical preparedness must start not only with the American baby, but with its parents. It means that if we are to prepare for the future by making our young men ready for war, we must see to it that all babies born in this country are born in homes fit to live in.

It means that fathers and mothers must have comfortable shelter, sanitary environment, wholesale food and enough of it and sufficient clothing to keep them comfortable and maintain their self-respect.

And that can't be done on starvation wages for fathers of families—wages that force boys and girls out of school and into stores, workshops and factories before they have had a chance to develop healthy bodies and healthy minds.

Labor has a chance to make capitalism see the force of some of its arguments while the preparedness fever is on. There is a good chance to drive home the important fact that any scheme of preparedness for national defense must consider the right of every American child to be born under conditions that guarantee it a fair chance for physical and mental health. That means not only a living wage for all men, but a wage that will enable a man to marry and raise and educate healthy, happy, normal children.

ADVERTISING.—Here's the advertising score for last week, according to the Daily News: Columns printed, News 946.67, Trib. 741.01, American 334.91, Journal 303.49, Herald 287.70, Examiner 278.20, Post 243.11.

That score puts the Examiner in the also-ran class, and the News beats the American better than 3 to 1.

Hearst has been slipping badly in Chicago since 1912, when he locked out the union pressmen and got on the unfair list of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Before that lockout the Examiner led the Trib in circulation in the morning field, and the American led the News. Now the Trib's got the Exam skinned, and the American can't see the News for dust.

Hearst is one guy who betrays labor and didn't get away with it.